

thirteenth to the fifteenth centuries it was the custom that girls served knights in the bath.<sup>1</sup> Through the Middle Ages the sexes bathed together, and not innocently.<sup>2</sup> The Germans were very fond of bathing and every village had its public bath house. The utility and pleasure of bathing were so great that bathing was forbidden as an ecclesiastical penance.<sup>3</sup> " A practice of men and women bathing together was condemned by Hadrian, and afterwards by Alexander Severus, but was only finally suppressed by Constantine." \* The Council of Trullanum in 692 forbade the sexes to bathe together.<sup>5</sup> Other councils repeated the prohibition. This shows that Constantine did not suppress the custom, nor did any other civil or ecclesiastical authority do so. The ecclesiastics in Germany, from the eighth century, condemned the custom of the sexes bathing together, but never could control it.<sup>6</sup> Christian men and women bathed together at Tyre in the time of the crusades.<sup>7</sup> All the authorities, beginning with Erasmus (in the Colloquy, *Diversoria*), agree that bathing at a common bath house was abandoned on account of syphilis. Leprosy, which was brought from the East by the crusaders, had less effect in the same direction. In the sixteenth century there were other epidemics, and wood became dear.<sup>8</sup> The use of body linen and bed linen which could be washed made bathing less essential to comfort and health.<sup>9</sup> The habit of seeing nudity was broken, and as it became unusual it became offensive. Thus a concealment taboo grew up again. Rudeck<sup>10</sup> is convinced by these facts that " it was not modesty which made dress and public decency, but that dress and the decay of objectionable customs made modesty." He seems to be astonished at this

conclusion and a  
little afraid of it. It is undoubtedly correct. The  
whole history  
of dress depends on it.

<sup>1</sup> Weinhold, *D. F.*, II, 115.

<sup>4</sup> Lecky, *Eur. Morals*, II, 311.

<sup>2</sup> D'Aussy, *Fabliaux*, IV, passim.

<sup>5</sup> Hefele, *Conciliengesch.* ^

III, 310.

<sup>3</sup> Weinhold, *D. F.*, II, 114.

<sup>6</sup> Weinhold, *D. F.*, II, 117.

<sup>7</sup> Prutz, *Kulturgesch. der Kreuzziige*, 528 note.

<sup>8</sup> Zappert in *Arch. für JZunde der Oester. Gesch.-Quellen*, XXI, 41, 82, 132.

<sup>9</sup> The queen of Charles VII of France (1422-1461) said that she owned but

two chemises of linen (Clement, *Jacques Casur*, 246).

<sup>10</sup> *Oeffentl. Sittlichkeit*, 399.